

WILLIAMSBURG VIRGINIA

A Community Profile

Updated November 2003

LOCATION

The City of Williamsburg, Virginia's first city and colonial capital, is located on the Virginia Peninsula in the southeast portion of the state, midway between Richmond and Norfolk on the I-64/U.S. 60 corridor.

Richmond is located 45 miles to the northwest and Washington, D.C. is approximately 160 miles to the north. The Port of Hampton Roads is located 37 miles to the southeast.

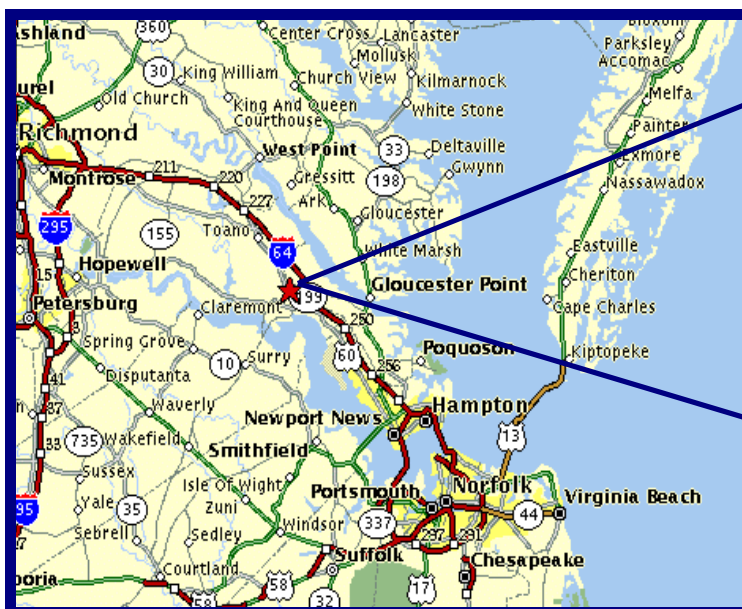
As a Hampton Roads community, Williamsburg is one of fifteen jurisdictions located in the Norfolk-Virginia Beach-Newport News VA-NC Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA). This MSA is the 28th-largest metropolitan market in the United States. The Virginia portion of this MSA has an approximate population of 1.7 million.

Source: Virginia Economic Development Partnership (2000)

HISTORY

In 1699, the General Assembly of Virginia established the City of Williamsburg as the colony's capital. The new city, formerly known as Middle Plantation, was named in honor of King William III, and was home to the College of William and Mary. In 1722, George I granted a royal charter incorporating the City of Williamsburg after the fashion of the English municipal borough.

During the 1700s, Williamsburg developed into a bustling capital city and played a historic role in events leading to American independence. In 1780, the capital moved to Richmond, and Williamsburg reverted to a quiet college town and rural county seat. In retrospect, Williamsburg's loss of capital city status was its salvation. Many 18th century buildings survived into the early 20th century when John D. Rockefeller Jr. supported a massive restoration effort.



Source: MapQuest (2000)

LOCAL ECONOMY

As of August 2003, the City of Williamsburg's civilian labor force was **6,343**, with an unemployment rate of **6.8%**.

Source: *Virginia Employment Commission (2003)*

The City of Williamsburg's local economy is largely supported by tourism, education, and health care. The majority of business establishments within the city either fall into the retail trade or accommodation/food services category. In 1997, the Virginia Tourism Corporation reported that Williamsburg was the top destination stop for Virginia tourists; **18.9%** of all Virginia travelers named Williamsburg as their trip motivation.

Source: *Virginia Tourism Corporation (1997 and 1998)*

Due to Williamsburg's close proximity to major metropolitan areas within the Hampton Roads region, residents share a wide variety of occupational and career choices. Major employers located in the City include: The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, The College of William & Mary, and Williamsburg Community Hospital. Additional employment opportunities are available in surrounding James City County and York County, which are considered a part of the Greater Williamsburg Area.

Major Occupations Norfolk-VA Beach- Newport News MSA

<u>Occupations</u>	<u># Employees</u>
Administrative & Clerical	144,794
Commercial Service	83,334
Sales & Promotion	82,439
Health Services	38,789
Mechanic & Precision Crafts	38,217
Education & Training	33,723
Construction & Mining	30,728
Manufacturing Production	29,227
Mathematics & Engineering	28,245
Transportation	25,933
Law & Community Service	15,123
Protective Service	13,099
General Labor	12,734
Art, Culture & Recreation	7,543
Agriculture & Forestry	2,183

Source: *Virginia Electronic Labor Market Access (1998)*

Major Employers of the Greater Williamsburg Area

<u>Firm</u>	<u>Product/Service</u>	<u>Employees</u>
Mastercorp	Housekeeping	250
Wal-Mart Inc.*	Distribution Center	250
Fairfield**	Resorts/Timeshares	275
Williamsburg Landing *	Retirement Community	280
Jamestown/Yorktown Foundation *	Historical Exhibitions	500
Kingsmill Resort*	Resort/Conference Center	950
Williamsburg Community Hospital	Health Care	1,000
Eastern State Hospital*	Mental Health Facility	1,000
Anheuser Busch, Inc.*	Theme Parks/Beer Production	1,000
Williamsburg-James City County Public Schools ***	Elementary & Secondary Education	1,400
Colonial Williamsburg Foundation	Education/Entertainment	4,000
The College of William & Mary	Higher Education Faculty & Staff	2,887

* denotes James City County

** denotes York County

*** denotes City of Williamsburg and James City County

Source: *Virginia Electronic Labor Market Access (2001)*

Wage Data Norfolk-VA Beach-Newport News MSA

Occupational Category	Median Hourly	Mean Hourly	Mean Annually	Mean RSE*
Total All Occupations	\$11.91	\$14.69	\$30,560	0.9%
Management	\$28.87	\$31.03	\$64,540	0.9%
Business and Financial Operations	\$20.23	\$22.31	\$46,410	2.7%
Computer and Mathematical	\$24.17	\$24.61	\$51,180	1.7%
Architecture and Engineering	\$24.54	\$25.18	\$52,370	2.2%
Life, Physical and Social Science	\$21.36	\$22.73	\$47,290	3.1%
Community and Social Services	\$15.38	\$15.93	\$33,140	2.4%
Legal	\$18.12	\$24.94	\$51,880	6.0%
Education, Training and Library	\$15.74	\$15.76	\$32,770	2.6%
Arts, Design, Entertainment, Sports and Media	\$14.27	\$16.58	\$34,480	1.8%
Healthcare Practitioners and Technical	\$19.03	\$23.31	\$48,490	3.4%
Healthcare Support	\$ 8.69	\$ 9.34	\$19,430	1.8%
Protective Service	\$13.36	\$14.21	\$29,550	4.2%
Food Preparation and Service	\$ 6.91	\$ 7.55	\$15,710	1.3%
Building, Grounds Keeping and Maintenance	\$ 7.90	\$ 8.71	\$18,130	1.4%
Personal Care and Service	\$ 7.49	\$ 8.68	\$18,060	2.9%
Sales and Related Occupations	\$ 8.34	\$11.48	\$23,880	1.9%
Office and Administrative Support	\$10.68	\$11.73	\$24,400	1.0%
Farming, Fishing and Forestry	\$ 8.58	\$ 9.96	\$20,710	4.9%
Construction and Extraction	\$14.60	\$14.47	\$30,100	1.6%
Installation, Maintenance and Repair	\$15.34	\$15.80	\$32,860	1.2%
Production	\$12.61	\$13.77	\$28,650	3.9%
Transportation and Material Moving	\$10.16	\$11.99	\$24,940	2.4%

* RSE: Relative Standard Error

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics (2001 Metropolitan Area Occupational Employment and Wage Estimates)

TAXES

In Virginia, a sales tax is collected at both the state and local level. Localities in Virginia receive **1%** of the **4.5%** statewide sales tax rate. The remaining **3.5%** of the sales tax is retained at the state level.

Manufacturers pay real estate, machinery and tools, truck and automobile, utility, and sales taxes.

Non-manufacturers pay real estate, tangible personal property, truck and automobile, sales tax and utility taxes. They also may pay either a merchant's capital or a license tax.

The independent City of Williamsburg charges various fees for occupational licenses in addition to real estate and personal property taxes. Comparatively, the City of Williamsburg's tax rates are significantly lower than those of neighboring jurisdictions.

Source: Virginia Economic Development Partnership (2000)

Local:

Real Estate Tax	\$0.54/ \$100 assessed value
Personal Property Tax	\$3.50/ \$100 NADA avg. loan value
Room & Meal Tax	5% of gross sales
Business Property Tax	\$3.50/ \$100 (30% of original cost)
Machinery & Tools Tax	\$3.50/ \$100 (30% of original cost)
Public Utilities Tax	\$0.50/\$100 Gross

State:

Corporate Income	6%
Personal Income	2%-5.75%
Retail Sales	4.5%
(1% of retail sales tax is returned to the City)	

DEMOGRAPHICS

As surrounding localities have seen significant population growth, the City of Williamsburg's population has remained stable. Roughly half of the city's population are students from the College of William & Mary.

Population (2000)	11,998
Population, percent change, (2000-2001)	3.3%
Median household money income (2000)	\$52,358
Racial Mix (2000):	
Caucasian	79.5%
African American	13.3%
Asian	4.6%
Persons below poverty, percent (2000)	18.3%
Median Age (2000)	22.6
Number of Households (2000)	3,619
Land Area (Square Miles)	9.07
Persons per square mile (2000)	1,333

Source: United States Census Bureau (2000) and HRPDC

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

The City of Williamsburg has operated under the Council-Manager plan since 1932. The plan is modeled after the American corporation, as opposed to the Mayor-Council plan which is modeled after the elected branches of government found in the U.S. Constitution.

In the Council-Manager plan, the governing body is composed of public spirited citizens serving on a part time basis to decide major policy issues. The Mayor, who is elected by the City Council, presides over Council meetings and serves as the Chief Elected Official of the city. Jeanne Zeidler is the current Mayor.

The City Manager, under this system, is comparable to the corporation's Chief Executive Officer. The City Manager is a professionally-trained public administrator charged with implementing the policies and directives of City Council. The City Manager has broad administrative authority with strict rules prohibiting political interference in administrative matters. Likewise, the City Manager refrains from participating in partisan political activities which would impair professional administration. Jackson C. Tuttle is the current City Manager.

The City of Williamsburg has five members on City Council that serve four year, staggered terms. Members of the current City Council include: Jeanne Zeidler, Mayor; Wright B. Houghland, Vice-Mayor; Clyde A. Haulman; Billy Scruggs; and C. Russell Tabb. All 5 members of Council are elected at-large, and elect the Mayor, Vice-Mayor, and appoint the City Manager, City Attorney, and Clerk of Council. Citizens of Williamsburg also elect Constitutional Officers. Constitutional officers include the Commissioner of the Revenue (Judy Fuqua); Treasurer (M. Ann Davis); Voter Registrar (R. Wythe Davis); Sheriff (Robert Deeds); Clerk of Circuit Court (Betsy Woolridge); and Commonwealth Attorney (Michael McGinty).

The City's fifth Comprehensive Plan, which outlines the direction of the City's growth and goals for years to come, was adopted in 1998. As guided by the Comprehensive Plan, the City enforces land use and development standards. The City of Williamsburg celebrated its 300th anniversary in 1999.

FINANCE

Williamsburg Area Banks # of Locations

BB & T	3
SunTrust Bank	6
Citizens and Farmers Bank	3
Wachovia Bank	3
Old Point National Bank	1
Chesapeake Bank	2
Bank of America	2
Peninsula Trust Bank, Inc.	1
The Bank of Williamsburg	1
Centura RBC Bank	2
First Market Bank	1
Harbor Bank of Williamsburg	1
Langley Federal Credit Union	1
First Advantage Credit Union	1

City Vision

"Williamsburg will become an evermore safe, beautiful, livable city of historic and academic renown, served by a city government--cohesively led, financially strong, always improving-- in full partnership with the people who live, work and visit here."

COMMUNITY FACILITIES

Recreation:

Parks:

The City operates six parks. Bicentennial and College Landing are passive parks, but the remaining four parks offer a wide array of recreational activities, nature trails and bike trails.

- Bicentennial (2.66 acres)
- College Landing (2 acres)
- Highland Park Community (2 acres)
- Kiwanis Municipal (27 acres)
- Quarterpath (23 acres)
- Waller Mill (2,400 acres)

Quarterpath Recreation Center & Pool:

The outdoor swimming pool is open daily to the public starting in June and ending Labor Day. Swimming lessons are held Monday through Thursday for two-week sessions. The recreation center is open year round and offers exercise classes, basketball courts, table tennis and a variety of other activities.

James City County Recreation Center:

This facility is operated by James City County and is open to Williamsburg citizens as well as citizens in neighboring localities.

Libraries: Swem Library at the College of William & Mary (757-221-INFO), Colonial Williamsburg Foundation's John D. Rockefeller Library (757-565-8510) and the Williamsburg Regional Library (757-259-4040).

Places of Worship: The Greater Williamsburg Area is home to a number of churches representing 30 denominations. A Jewish synagogue and Islamic center can also be found in the Williamsburg area.

Source: www.williamsburgfaith.org

Health Care: Sentara Williamsburg Community Hospital is a non-profit hospital that offers 139 beds and 24 hour emergency treatment. This Sentara affiliated hospital has over 120 physicians and more than 42 specialties. (757-259-6000)

Retail Centers: Merchants Square and surrounding businesses offer more than 50 shops, restaurants and services. The Colonial Williamsburg Historic Area is home to stores, restaurants and taverns that recreate the 18th century colonial environment. The city is also serviced by Williamsburg Shopping Center, Monticello Shopping Center and Patriot Plaza on Richmond Road.

TRANSPORTATION

To contact the DMV for vehicle registration, call 1-800-435-5137. To obtain the required City Vehicle Decal, call 757-220-6150

Roads:

- Interstate 64
- Route 199
- State Route 5 (east-west)
- U.S. Highway 60 (east-west)

Air Service:

General: Williamsburg-Jamestown Airport

Commercial:

- Newport News-Williamsburg Airport 15 miles
- Norfolk International Airport 43 miles
- Richmond International Airport 44 miles

Port:

- Norfolk 37 miles
- Richmond 45 miles

Bus:

There is a Greyhound charter bus station in the city. The city also operates the "Williamsburg Area Transport," a local transit system in conjunction with James City County, York County and the College of William and Mary.

Rail:

CSX provides freight rail service. Amtrak provides passenger service for the area. The city owns and operates the station.

Estimated Distance & Driving Time from Williamsburg to Major U.S. Cities

City	Distance in Miles	Travel Time
Atlanta, GA	575	10 hours
Baltimore, MD	199	3.5 hours
Boston, MA	602	10 hours
Charlotte, NC	337	6 hours
Chicago, IL	842	15 hours
Dallas, TX	1327	24 hours
Detroit, MI	668	11 hours
Los Angeles, CA	2669	48 hours
Miami, FL	991	16 hours
New York, NY	386	6.5 hours
St. Louis, MO	872	14.5 hours
Washington, DC	153	2.75 hours

HOUSING

Williamsburg has established a reputation for an abundance of high quality housing. The City Codes Compliance Division issued permits for **106** newly constructed family dwelling units throughout the year 2002. There are approximately **23** Homeowner's Associations that serve many housing developments throughout the city.

According to the 2000 U.S. Census, Williamsburg has a total of **3,880** housing units. Of the **3,619** occupied housing units, **1,602** were owner-occupied and **2,017** were renter-occupied. The average household size of owner-occupied units is **2.12** persons, where the average size of renter-occupied units is **2.03** persons. The average family size within Williamsburg is **2.66**.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau (2000)

COMMUNICATIONS

Telephone: Verizon (757-954-6222) and Cavalier Telephone (814-442-4000) offer residential and business telephone services. Cox Communications (757-224-1111) offers local, long distance, and high-speed internet services for residential and business use. Sprint, Net2000 Communications, Adelphia and AT&T also provide Internet access and business phone services.

Newspapers: The *Virginia Gazette* serves as the local Williamsburg paper and is issued bi-weekly. The Daily Press publishes a local daily newspaper for Williamsburg in addition to its expanded coverage of the Hampton Roads area. The Richmond-Times Dispatch is also available daily within the Williamsburg region.

Television: Local broadcasting is offered by five area stations. Cox Communications (224-1111) provides cable television services for the area. Expanded coverage is also provided by Comocan Satellite.

Local Government TV and Radio Stations:

- WLEE FM 96.5 Channel 48
- WWBR FM 107.9 School Information-Channel 47

UTILITIES

Electric: Provided by Dominion Virginia Power (1-888-667-3000)

Natural Gas: Provided by the Virginia Natural Gas Company (1-800-229-3578)

Water: The City has its own water source and treatment plant located at the Waller Mill Reservoir. (757-220-6188)

Waste Water Treatment: The City operates the sanitary sewer collection system for transmission and treatment by Hampton Roads Sanitation District. (757-220-6188)

Residential Refuse Collection and Recycling: Provided by Waste Management Inc. under City contract. (757-220-6140)

FIRE / POLICE

The Williamsburg Fire Department is a combination career and volunteer department. The career staff consists of **32** members divided among administrative staff and suppression personnel. Suppression personnel are assigned to three platoons of eight members per platoon. Each shift is comprised of a Battalion Chief, a Lieutenant, a Fire Inspector and several Paramedic/Firefighters, with the remainder made up of Firefighter/EMT's. Additionally, Monday - Friday, 8:30 am-4:30 pm, there is a Emergency Management Services Supervisor and a Fire Protection Specialist on duty. The Fire Department has a Safety & Fire Education house that it uses to conduct hands-on forums on fire safety and crime prevention targeted for individuals of any age-group. The department operates with a hybrid automatic mutual aid agreement with the surrounding counties. (220-6220)

The Williamsburg Police Department is staffed with **47** full-time employees. The Police Department continues to have the best average response time on the Peninsula at 1.6 minutes per call. On July 12, 1987, the Williamsburg Police Department became the 49th Law Enforcement Agency in the United States to be awarded Accreditation. The department has received re-accreditation status three times, most recently in 2003. (220-2331)

EDUCATION

Public:

James City County and the City of Williamsburg jointly operate the public school system within the area. There are twelve schools within the Williamsburg-James City County school system that serves almost **9,000** students. The WJCC school system's operating budget for the 2002-2003 fiscal year is \$75,924,494. The WJCC School Division was ranked among the top five school divisions in Virginia and the top 15% nationwide by *Expansion Management Magazine*, winning their Gold Medal for the 2001-02 school year.

Schools (2002-03):

Elementary (7) 3,946 students
 Middle (3) 2,206 students
 High School (2) 2,810 students

Per Pupil Expenditures (2002)\$8,126

Dropout Rate (2002-2003)>1%

Graduates Continuing Education (2002-03) 86%

In the 2002-2003 school year WJCC offered 19 Advanced Placement classes with a total enrollment of 894 students.

Governor's Schools:

There are two Governor's Schools located in the area that serve gifted and talented students.

www.wjcc.k12.va.us

Elementary & Secondary Education

Private: (Lower) (Upper)

Walsingham Academy: 229-2642

229-6026

This Catholic affiliated school serves grades Pre-K through 12. The campus has both a lower school (grades PK-7), with an enrollment of **425**, and an upper school (grades 8-12), with an enrollment of **281**. The student-teacher ratio is around 20:1. The percentage of graduates continuing their education is 100%.

Williamsburg Christian Academy: 220-1978

This independent, interdenominational school (grades PK-12) enrolls **260** students, with 50 in grades 9-12. The overall student-teacher ratio is 13:1. About 85% of graduates continue their education upon graduation. Williamsburg Christian Academy is a member of the Association of Christian Schools International.

Williamsburg Montessori: 565-0977

This school serves **111** students between the ages of 18 months to 5th grade. The student-teacher ratio is 10:1.

Providence Classical School: 565-2900

This new independent Christian school has a current enrollment of **70+** students from grades K-7 with plans to add a grade each year. The maximum student-teacher ratio is 11:1.

Higher Education Institutions

Four Year Institutions:

There are four Colleges and Universities offering four-year degree programs within a twenty-five mile radius of the City of Williamsburg.

The College of William & Mary: W&M is located in Williamsburg with an enrollment of approximately **7,530** students and a student-faculty ratio of 12:1.

Christopher Newport University: CNU is located in Newport News, VA, roughly 18 miles away. Over **5,300** students are enrolled and the student-faculty ratio is 17:1.

Old Dominion University: ODU is located in Norfolk, VA, roughly 22 miles away. Approximately **19,000** students are enrolled and the student-faculty ratio is 17:1.

Hampton University: HU is located in Hampton, VA, about 24 miles away. HU serves approximately **5,700** students with a student-faculty ratio of 16:1.

Community Colleges:

There are three Community Colleges located within a twenty-five mile radius of the City of Williamsburg. Each college is affiliated with the Virginia Community College System. These two-year institutions offer associate degrees, college transfer programs and general study certificates.

Thomas Nelson: TNCC's main campus is located in Hampton, VA, approximately 22 miles away. A satellite office is located in Williamsburg. Throughout the school year, several courses are offered on the campus of the College of William & Mary.

Paul D. Camp: PDCCC has one campus located in Smithfield, VA, approximately 20 miles away.

Rappahannock: RCC has one campus located in Saluda, VA, approximately 23 miles away.

QUALITY of LIFE

The Williamsburg area offers residents exceptional historical, cultural, and recreational activities. As part of the "Historic Triangle," Colonial Williamsburg recreates 18th century life, where visitors can explore the numerous gardens, trade shops, and attractions on Duke of Gloucester Street. Throughout the year, the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation sponsors a number of lectures and special events to engage people in learning about the historic Colonial Capital. The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation celebrated its 75th Anniversary in 2001. Jamestown and Yorktown, the other landmarks in the "Historic Triangle," offer a glimpse of primitive life and struggles of the early settlers on Jamestown Island and the Revolutionary War at Yorktown.

In addition to historical sites, residents can also enjoy a multitude of cultural attractions. The DeWitt Wallace Decorative Arts Gallery, the Abby Aldrich Rockefeller Folk Art Center, This Century Art Gallery and the Muscarelle Museum of Art are all located within Williamsburg. Nearby cultural attractions include the Mariner's Museum and the Virginia Living Museum in Newport News; the NASA Visitors Center at Langley Research in Hampton; the Chrysler Museum in Norfolk; and the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts in Richmond.

Sports enthusiasts can enjoy an array of collegiate team sporting events at William & Mary College. The college also sponsors plays, concerts, dance performances and lecture series that are open to the public. Williamsburg is home to several nationally acclaimed golf courses with top design layouts. With eleven golf courses located in the Greater Williamsburg area, Williamsburg has become a premier golf destination.

The area offers unsurpassed facilities for both fresh water and salt-water fishing. The City's Waller Mill Park has a **343** acre lake that is open for fishing, boating, pedal boating, kayaking and canoeing with a tunnel connecting the upper and lower sections of the lake. Both the James and York Rivers provide superb opportunities for inland fishing excursions. The Chesapeake Bay is also nearby. Other water related activities in the area include sailing, windsurfing, and crabbing.

The Greater Williamsburg area is also home to two theme entertainment parks. Busch Gardens Williamsburg is an 18th century European theme park that offers more than **40** rides and attractions. Busch Gardens Williamsburg has been voted the world's "Most Beautiful Theme Park" for the twelve consecutive years and named the world's "Favorite Theme Park" for the fourth year in a row in 2003. Water Country USA, a subsidiary of Busch Gardens, offers more than **30** water rides, slides and attractions.

Topography & Climate

Mean Temperatures & Precipitation:

January:	38 degrees	4.19"
February:	41 degrees	3.45"
March:	49 degrees	4.64"
April:	58 degrees	3.24"
May:	66 degrees	4.51"
June:	74 degrees	3.38"
July:	78 degrees	5.34"
August:	77 degrees	4.99"
September:	71 degrees	4.96"
October :	60 degrees	3.61"
November:	51 degrees	3.39"
December:	42 degrees	3.34"

Feet above sea level: 6 to 90 feet

Latitude: 37° 15'/**Longitude:** 76° 37'

Features: Located in the northern part of the Peninsula, midway between the York & James Rivers.

Source: www.weather.com/weather/climatology/monthly/23185 (2003)

For Further Information Contact:

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401 Lafayette Street

Williamsburg, Virginia 23185

Phone: (757) 220-6100 Fax: (757) 220-6107

Website: www.williamsburg.va.gov

Email: citymanager@ci.williamsburg.va.us